



November 14, 2018

Wyoming Legislative Republican Caucus
200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Wyoming Legislative Republican Caucus,

Congratulations on your General Election victory!

As a member, designated through bylaw, of House Republican Caucus I would like to attempt to clarify some potential misunderstandings.

After hearing that there is some displeasure with the WYGOP State Central Committee's decisions during this campaign season, I want to personally reach out to each of you because Republican candidates and elected officials are highly valued by myself and this Party. Looking ahead, it is obvious to myself and other party leaders that we must enact change to allow more flexible funding decisions before the next election cycle.

First, I would like to point out that the process used to make candidate funding decisions was nearly identical to former chairman Micheli's 2016 cycle process. Many of the same volunteer Republicans were involved in both the 2016 and 2018 efforts. Due to unforeseen circumstances and timing, using the Micheli plan seemed prudent and wise because it was tested and proven successful in 2016. In that cycle we saw candidates Jared Olsen, Bill Henderson, Affie Ellis and Jim Allen, just to name a few, win seats in close districts.

There were some noted differences in the two cycles in general party structure, function and finance which affected this election cycle. Many of you are aware of the Feb '18 officer/director conflict that resulted in lost efficiency and fundraising. Then in May the Party's staff abilities changed noticeably when the Executive Director resigned prior to the Primary Election season, which meant the WYGOP also lost its head fundraiser. Despite countless man hours to plan and

execute large events the Party found itself in an uphill battle during a critical time of year and cycle.

The challenge of meeting the needs of a large number of legislative races, coupled with five statewide races and our two US races, seemed nearly insurmountable given the then current staff and budget. In the final analysis an objective observer would likely find both victories and failures, and much to learn from.

Specifically, there were a couple of matters leading up to candidate funding decisions I believe are important to convey. During the February SCC meeting in Cheyenne, one in which the members were also tasked with Secretary of State selection due to vacancy, there were resolutions presented. I did not run that portion of the meeting, as I was taking some moments to call Governor Mead to inform him of the three candidates selected. At adjournment of that meeting I learned that a specific resolution stating the SCC's lack of support for SF40 Wyoflot had been passed. I spoke with a few members and found that even Teton County members voiced support for this resolution.

After learning of the Legislative and Executive branch support for ENDOW and SF40 in the following days, I did not take a position on either topic or any related bills during or after our Caucus time together. However, when it came time to make candidate funding decisions, the SCC members did assert the SCC resolution on SF40. Furthermore, the WYGOP bylaws intend to limit any other than the SCC member body from making candidate funding decisions.

With that said, there were other difficulties we encountered this election cycle. For example, the Party there is a need to hire IT professionals who are abreast of emerging technologies to assist in the campaigns of the future.

I do want to add that over 500 delegates, representing thousands of Wyoming Republicans from all 23 counties, took the time to draft, debate and adopt our Republican Platform and Resolutions. The number of Republicans involved in forming these documents is large and stunning in comparison to private interest groups polling a limited number of their members regarding political opinions, and stating them to you, the lawmakers, as prevailing opinions on any given topic. May these statements be the hallmark that unites us as a Party and a State.

No race shows the success of the message of commitment to working together as Republicans, for

Republican ideals, better than the Governor's race. Governor Gordon stayed focused on issues, not personalities, Governor-elect Gordon consistently stated his appreciation for his fellow candidates. He discussed policy positions with them. Now, as our Governor-elect, he has stated his intention to explore some of these policy positions and solutions to apply to the wide-ranging issues facing Wyoming. His approach has reinforced the confidence we have that Wyoming's Republicans are working together to make our lives better. This is the kind of unity that the Party is committed to.

My hope is that you have taken the time to read this letter and have gained a clearer understanding of recent party operations, including some of the "why's". If you have any further questions, I would be glad to visit with you. I would like to resolve any issues you might have directly. My door is always open to you. I welcome your suggestions on how we might continue to promote unity in the Republican party and effectively work together on behalf of our constituents. I look forward to working with all of you to assist with the Republican agenda during the interim and the upcoming session.

Sincerely,


W. Frank Eathorne, Chairman
Wyoming Republican Party